GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:211
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000
DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AROUND GANGA AND YAMUNA RIVERS
SAHIB SINGH VERMA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the environment around Ganga and Yamuna rivers;

(b) if so, whether the Government and Semi-Government departments and Non-Governmental Organisations are involved in improving the environment in and around these rivers;

(c) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the present status of implementation and improvements of the environment around these rivers particularly around the National Capital Region?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in respect of parts (a) to (e) of reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.211 for 4-12-2000 regarding Development of Environment around Ganga and Yamuna Rivers.

(a) to (e) Yes, Sir. On the basis of surveys conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, the rivers Ganga and Yamuna among other major rivers of the country have been found polluted. In order to address the problem of pollution of these rivers, a scheme of pollution abatement of Yamuna which is known as the Yamuna Action Plan was approved by the Government in April 1993. The present approved cost of the Action Plan is Rs.509.54 crore. Under this Plan, works have been taken up in 21 towns out of which 8 towns are in Uttar Pradesh and 12 towns in Haryana besides Delhi. The Plan includes such works as interception & diversion of sewage, sewage treatment plants, low cost toilets, crematoria and river front development. So far, an expenditure of Rs.446.04 crore has been incurred on this Plan. The Delhi component of Yamuna Action Plan is small comprising 2 sewage treatment plants each of 10 million liters per day capacity and one electric crematorium. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is implementing the major part of pollution abatement programme of Yamuna out of their own plan funds. Under this programme, 14 additional sewage treatment plants along with allied works are to be constructed. Out of these, 9 treatment plants have already been completed and another 5 will be completed by March 2003. In addition, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is also to construct 15 common effluent treatment plants to treat industrial effluents from 21 industrial estates of Delhi. This Project is under implementation and will be completed by December, 2002. In addition, a scheme of pollution abatement of Ganga has been completed in 25 towns in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal at a cost of about Rs. 455 crore under the first phase of Ganga Action Plan.The second phase of Ganga Action Plan has also been taken up in these as well as additional towns along the river Ganga and its major tributaries. The estimated cost of these works is about Rs. 733 crore. The expenditure incurred till date is Rs. 41 crore. The second phase of the Ganga Action Plan is targeted for completion by 2005. Government, Semi-Government and Non-Government Organizations are involved in the implementation of the programme.